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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/21/2018
TAGS: PREL PHUM UNSC BM
SUBJECT: GAMBARI UPDATES AMB WOLFF ON SECURITY COUNCIL
BRIEFING, INDONESIA TRAVEL, AND BURMESE VISA

Classified By: Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

- 11. (C) UN Special Adviser Gambari suggested to Ambassador Wolff in a conversation on February 21 that if the Security Council discusses Burma before he visits Burma, the United States could underscore that Burma's referendum is not credible unless it is inclusive and transparent. Given the regime's recent announcement of a completed draft constitution and imminent referendum, Gambari commented that the regime must commence a meaningful and time bound dialogue with Aung Sun Suu Kyi (ASSK) and that it is essential to "define the substance of that dialogue."
- 12. (C) Gambari said that he would likely be allowed back into Burma the first week of March. Gambari told Wolff that he urged Indonesian FM Wirajuda to engage with Burma more firmly and directly, not just by correspondence. Gambari will meet with Indonesian President Yudhoyono on February 22 before traveling to Singapore and Japan.
- 13. (C) Gambari plans to apply for a visa to Burma for the first week of March when he arrives in Singapore. He said that during his visit to Burma he would clarify ASSK's role with regard to the draft constitution and upcoming referendum. Ambassador Wolff cautioned Gambari to avoid "glossy statements" on the referendum and timeline, reminding him that the credibility of the process needs to be demonstrated, not assumed. KHALILZAD